

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEA-10 SY-10 USSS-00

NIC-01 RSR-01 /122 W

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R 311558 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 054

UNCLAS CARACAS 4663

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN VE CU

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA- CUBA TO INITIATE TALKS ON HIJACKING AGREEMENT

REF: DEPT A-3938

1. A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INDICATED THAT TALKS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND CUBA WILL BEGIN SHORTLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT BILATERAL HIJACKING AGREEMENT.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS : " THE GOVERNMENTS OF VENEZUELA AND CUBA HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO APPLY TO THE PROBLEM OF THE HIJACKING OF AIRLINERS, PRINCIPLES WHICH WILL IMPEDE THE CONTINUATION OF THOSE ACTS WHICH THREATEN THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PASSENGERS.

" TO THIS EFFECT, BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO BEGIN THE CONTACTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE DISCUSSION OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT AGREEMENT ON THE HIJACKING OF AIRPLANES."

3. WHILE THE IMPETUS FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN THE RECENT HIJACKING OF A VENEZUELAN PLANE TO CUBA THIS MOVE WOULD APPEAR TO FURTHERPAVE WAY FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ACTING UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE ANGEL ZAMBRANO COMMENTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ARGENTINE- CUBAN RELATIONS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS INITIATIVE.

4. VENEZUELA' S INTEREST IN ARRANGING A HIJACKING AGREEMENT WITH CUBA WILL POSSIBLY ALSO ACCELERATE ITS EVENTUAL RATIFICATION OF THE ANTI- HIJACKING CONVENTIONS.
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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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